

# The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear not—Do all the ends Thon Aims' at be thy Country's, Thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHERN, Established June, 1890.

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## FRENCH VICTIMS OF THE GERMANS

Hoover Finds Northern France in a Desperate Condition.

MILLION AND A HALF PEOPLE ARE DESTITUTE

Dependent Upon Charity for Food, Clothing and Shelter—Huns Destroy Everything.

Washington, Jan. 1.—Relief work being carried on in Northern France by the commission for relief in Belgium and the pitiable condition of the 1,500,000 inhabitants of that section who escaped the German invasion are described in a cablegram received at the headquarters of the commission here from Herbert C. Hoover at Paris.

Mr. Hoover's message, made public tonight, revealed that the work of relief and rehabilitation in France will fall more heavily on the commission than had been expected. The destruction wrought by the German army was so complete, Mr. Hoover said, that the relief work must include not only food and clothing, but housing over a considerable area.

An enlarged organization to handle the situation is being built up and supplies have been obtained from the quartermaster department of the American army. A large amount of second hand barrack material also has been taken over from the army and navy and 150 volunteers from the American navy are superintending the construction of barracks near ruined villages for the inhabitants.

Industrial life in the invaded region has been almost completely paralyzed, Mr. Hoover said. Railroads have been rendered almost hopeless of reconstruction for many months, the coal mines have been destroyed and there is scarcely a single factory that can be operated without a very large portion of new equipment.

"The commission for relief in Belgium," said Mr. Hoover's message, had hoped to surrender the task of relief of Northern France to the French government immediately upon the German retreat. It has been found impossible, however, to undertake the food supply of this area for some months to come, and upon the urgent request of that government the committee had decided to continue.

"After the four years paralysis of wholesale and retail business with the destruction of the principal towns and ships, these trades have disappeared, and the 'people' are today dependent upon a ration issued directly to them just as before the German evacuation. Until transportation and trade can be rehabilitated the present system must go on, for the French distribution is done by the trade. These arrangements necessitate some reorganization of the relief work and its entire separation from Belgium."

Twenty members of the commission for relief in Belgium, who joined the American army as officers, have been released by General Pershing to undertake this work.

"The population of this area at the moment of the retreat was about 1,500,000, there being also about 300,000 refugees in Belgium who are returning and some 500,000 refugees in France, all of whom are anxious to return to their native soil."

"The destruction of some 20 principal towns and literally hundreds of villages renders the return of these refugees a stupendous problem. Every effort is being made to restrain them from going back until some systematic provision for shelter can be completed, but they evade all official urging and the roads are a continuous procession of these pitiable bodies. Thousands of them reach their villages to find every vestige of shelter destroyed and finally wander into the villages further back from the acute battle area, which are themselves overcrowded to a heart-breaking degree."

"In order to remedy this situation to some extent the commission for relief in Belgium has obtained the services of 150 volunteers from the American navy, and is taking over a large amount of second hand barrack material from the navy and army. These barracks are in course of erection adjacent to the destroyed villages under the superintendence of the navy volunteers."

"A large amount of boots and shoes and warm clothing has been taken from the quartermaster's supplies and these are being distributed to the people. The French government is endeavoring to obtain some cattle from Switzerland and horses from the various armies which, together with the meagre supply of agricultural implements, may enable the population to get in some portion of next year's crops in such of these areas as are not too badly destroyed by battle."

"The entire industrial life of the region has been destroyed by the Germans. There is scarcely a single factory that can be operated without a very large portion of new equipment. The coal mines are totally destroyed and the net work of railways in this region has been rendered almost hopeless of reconstruction for many months. The German method of destruction was to bend every single rail by exploding a hand grenade under it rendering it useless for all time."

"The Grand Canal du Nord, which connects this section of France with the Belgian canal system and is the

## POLES MARCHING TOWARD BERLIN

Army of Thirty Thousand Reported to Be Advancing on Hun Capital.

GERMAN DIVISION ORDERED TO ATTACK POLES

Report From Berne That Poles Have Captured Frankfurt, Fifty Miles From Berlin.

Copenhagen, Jan. 2.—A Polish army of thirty thousand is marching on Berlin, according to a dispatch received here, quoting rumors current at Berlin.

Gustave Noske, the member of the Ebert cabinet in charge of military affairs, is said to have ordered the fifth German division to meet the Poles.

Warsaw, Tuesday, Jan. 1.—Fighting has continued at various points in the city of Posen, German Poland, between Polish and German troops. The fortress in the city has been occupied by the Poles, while more than twenty thousand German soldiers have been disarmed. The fighting is of the house to house character.

There is no accurate estimate of the number of dead and wounded.

### Message From Pope

He Hopes to See New World Order.

Rome, Tuesday, Dec. 31.—In a New Year's message to America given today to the Associated Press, Pope Benedict expressed the hope that the peace conference might result in a new world order with a league of nations, the abolition of conscription and the establishment of tribunals to adjust international disputes. The message reads:

"On the eve of the New Year in which humanity is at last to enjoy the blessings of peace, we are glad to send cordial greetings to the American people as the champions of those same principles which have been proclaimed by both President Wilson and the holy see insuring for the world justice, peace and Christian love."

"In this solemn moment, when a new era in the history of the world is about to begin we pray that the Almighty may shed His light on the delegates who are meeting in Paris to settle the fate of mankind, and especially upon President Wilson as the head of the noble nation which has written such glorious pages in the annals of human progress."

"May the conference be of such a nature as to remove any resentment, abolish forever wars among brothers, establish harmony and concord and promote useful labor. Out of the peace conference may there be born the league of nations, which by abolishing conscription will reduce armaments; which by establishing international tribunals will eliminate disputes while placing peace upon a foundation of solid rock will guarantee to every one independence and equality of rights."

### Murder in Hampton

Well to Do Citizen of Garnett Section Apparently Murdered—Negroes Under Arrest.

Estill, Jan. 1.—W. F. Maner, aged about 55 years, one of Hampton County's most highly respected citizens, was found dead on the porch of his home ten miles below here in the Garnett section yesterday morning. Mr. Maner was undoubtedly murdered and robbery is supposed to have been the motive for the crime. Mr. Maner was never married but lived alone and was known to be a man of considerable wealth. Several negroes are under arrest and feeling is running high, but it is believed the law will be allowed to take its course.

### Poles Seize Parts of Silesia and Posen

Prussian Hold on Eastern Provinces Being Broken.

London, Jan. 2.—Polish troops have entered Frankfurt-on-Oder, 50 miles east of Berlin, says a Berne dispatch to the Express, which adds that the Poles have occupied Euthen in Prussian Silesia, and Bromberg in Posen.

Amsterdam, Jan. 2.—Former Emperor William is very ill, according to advices from Amerongen, which say he is suffering from a bad cold and high fever. He can not leave his room and a specialist from Utrecht is in attendance.

natural entrepot for goods to Antwerp or Rotterdam, was itself practically in the fighting for months and is so badly destroyed that it will take fully a year for its complete reconstruction.

"The relief is based upon the allowance of food to the value of about 35 cents per day to the destitute, those having any resources or employment being required to pay. The whole extent of destitution is not yet known, but appears to be fully 60 per cent. of the people."

## RAN ROADS AT A GREAT LOSS

The Railroad Administration Officials Figure Big Deficit.

BIG LOANS ARE NOT INCLUDED IN STATEMENT

If Roads Are Returned Early to Owners Loss Will Not Be Made Up.

Washington, Jan. 1.—The government's loss in operating the railroads in 1918 is calculated by railroad administration officials at less than \$150,000,000. This represents the difference between the aggregate amount the government will be compelled to pay railroad companies as rental for the use of their properties—the so-called guaranteed return—and the net income which the government will receive from the railroads.

It will take six months more of receipts from the increased freight rates to permit the government to recuperate its losses, officials believe. If congress does not approve the proposed five-year extension of federal control, and as a consequence President Wilson carries out his announced intention of returning the roads to private management at an early date, the government's loss will not be made up.

This deficit does not include the big sums—between \$150,000,000 and \$200,000,000—which have been loaned to railroads to help them pay for the extensive program of improvements and purchase of new cars and locomotives. These loans will be repaid eventually.

The government's loss cannot be stated exactly until the compensation of each road is finally determined, and until the Interstate Commerce Commission completes figures on earnings and expenses for November and December. Officials believe, however, that the aggregate government compensation for all roads will be about \$950,000,000 and that the net income from railroad operations credited to the government will be a little more than \$800,000,000. For the ten months up to November 1 the government's net income from the railroads, as reported by the Interstate Commerce Commission, was \$605,000,000.

Operating revenues for the entire year, officials calculate, probably amounted to \$4,800,000,000, more than ever before in railroad history, and operating expenses probably ran up to \$3,800,000,000. This left a billion dollars of net revenue, which was cut down more than \$200,000,000 by deducting for ordinary taxes, rentals for equipment not owned by railroad companies and other incidental losses.

War taxes and expenses of maintaining financial and other corporate offices, including salaries of officers not actually employed in physically operating the railways, must be paid by the railroad companies out of the \$95,000,000 which the government guarantees them.

For the railroads 1918 was a year which broke all records of revenues and expense. Although receipts were nearly 20 per cent. greater, expenses were even more. It took 80 per cent. of the operating revenues to pay operating expenses, although only 70 per cent was taken for this purpose in 1917. Operating expenses, which, with estimated figures for the past two months amounted to \$3,800,000,000, were a billion dollars more than in 1917. Increased wages are estimated variously to have been responsible for between \$600,000,000 and \$800,000,000 of this billion.

In the ten months ending November 1, for which the Interstate Commerce Commission has compiled definite reports, receipts from freight, passenger and other revenue sources were \$4,032,000,000, or a little less than the \$4,041,000,000 revenues for the entire year of 1917. In the ten months \$2,818,000,000 came from freight and \$856,000,000 from passenger traffic.

Operating expenses for the ten months amounted to \$3,284,000,000, or about \$400,000,000 more than the \$2,885,000,000 expenses for the entire year of 1917. So-called transportation expenses, including the bulk of the cost of running the trains amounted to \$1,666,000,000; maintenance of cars and locomotives cost \$897,000,000 and maintenance of tracks, roadway and structures cost \$521,000,000. Most of these figures probably will be raised 20 per cent by returns for the last two months.

The reports do not include small roads, with less than \$1,000,000 revenue a year.

Eastern roads in the ten months reported \$1,828,000,000 revenue and \$1,551,000,000 expenses; Western roads, \$1,349,000,000 revenues and \$890,000,000 expenses, and Southern roads, \$642,000,000 revenues and \$493,000,000 expenses.

### NEW YORK'S GOVERNOR.

Alfred E. Smith, Democrat, is Inaugurated.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 1.—A new governor took over the administration of the affairs of the State of New York today. Alfred E. Smith, Democrat, of New York city, was inaugurated at noon and assumed the office held for four years by Charles S. Whitman, of New York, a Republican.

## JAPAN FOR OPEN DOOR

Will Enter Conference Pledged to President Wilson's Policy.

IN ACCORD WITH ALLIES ON QUESTION

Statement Made by Baron Makino, Member of Japan's Peace Commission.

New York, Dec. 31.—Japan will enter the peace conference pledged to a policy of peace and the "open door" in the far East, in the maintenance of which she will welcome the cooperation of the Allies, Baron Nobuaki Makino, of the Japanese peace commission, declared on his arrival here today with fellow delegates, attachés and secretaries on the way to France.

His country's course in her foreign relations, said the Baron, who is a member of the Japanese House of Peers and the advisory council of diplomatic affairs, will be such as to insure the most effective partnership with the associated powers in the work of reconstruction. Having established peace in the Orient by clearing Germany from her far Eastern bases and keeping the seas open to commerce, he added, Japan is fully in accord with the Allies for a just and lasting world peace.

Accompanying Baron Makino on his arrival on a special train, with an official escort, provided by the State Department, were Lieut. Gen. Takeji Nara and Vice Admiral Isamu Takeshita, military and naval representatives; Eigo Fukai, director of the Bank of Japan, and Kikusaburo Furui and Matzokita, noted Japanese financiers, together with a party of attachés and secretaries numbering twenty-three.

Marquis Salongji, senior delegate, will join the party in Paris, traveling by way of the Suez canal. Baron Chinda, ambassador to England, is a third peace envoy of a marshal rank. Baron Makino will go to Washington to call on Viscount Ishih, the Japanese ambassador and with his party will sail January 4 on the Cunard liner Carmania, spending a few days in London before going to Paris.

The Baron spoke enthusiastically of his trip across the continent, the first since he journeyed to San Francisco in the early seventies, on way home after attending school in Philadelphia. At that time his father, Toshimichi Okubo, was a member of the Iwakura mission, which visited this country and England to announce the restoration of the throne of Japan and the determination of the government to pursue the policy of the "open door" in foreign intercourse. Baron Makino asserted that "everything I have seen and everything I have heard from my countrymen since I arrived on your shores has tended to indicate even closer and more sympathetic relations for the future than have prevailed in the past."

The peace commissioner expressed regret over his inability to accept a luncheon invitation of the New York chamber of commerce, representing "business men of this city with which our connections and interests are continually drawing closer." In the days of readjustment, he said, "we will welcome in the far East closer and more intimate relations with the leaders of industry, trade, and commerce, who have perhaps done more than armies or navies to win the war. The far East offers a vast field for the cooperation of the forces of reconstruction and those forces must necessarily be drawn from the ranks of the men who compose the chambers of commerce throughout Europe, the United States, Japan and China."

### Price for Wheat Crop

Representative Lever Will Introduce Bill Being Prepared By Department of Agriculture.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Chairman Lever of the house agriculture committee announced tonight after a conference with Secretary Houston that legislation to insure the maintenance of the government wheat guarantee price for the 1919 crop was being drafted by the department of agriculture and that he would introduce it in congress soon.

Mr. Lever said the legislation would authorize the president to continue operation of the food administration's grain corporation or create a new agency for buying, selling and storing the 1919 crop. A revolving fund of \$600,000,000 for the use of the corporation will be provided.

"The government," Mr. Lever said, "will buy all of the 1919 crop at the world price, whatever that may be. He added that the government might lose a large sum by maintaining the price but that it was necessary to keep faith with the farmers."

### Loan to Italy.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Italy today received a new credit of \$100,000,000 from the United States government. This increased Italy's total credit from this country to \$1,210,000,000, and the allies' aggregate credit to \$5,585,523,702.

## R. R. FUTURE GREAT PROBLEM

Old Owners Are Devising Plans to Regain Control of Transportation.

THEY ARE ANXIOUS TO FIX TIME FOR RETURN

Baltimore Banker and Railroad Man Makes Statement in Behalf of Railroad Owners.

New York, Dec. 31.—S. Davies Warfield, president of the National Association of Owners of Railroad Securities, was in New York today in conference with members of the association in connection with the plans of the association in respect to the return of the railroads to their owners.

It has been understood that Chairman Cuyler of the Association of Railroad Executives had furnished the railway executives a plan to be discussed with the executive committee of the national association.

Before leaving for Baltimore, Mr. Warfield made the following statement:

"The association will have suggestions to offer in relation to the plans for the return of the railroads to their owners. As announced in the press, the association, prior to presenting the suggestions it will formulate to the congress, will consult with committees, organizations and other concerned including the shippers, that unity of purpose may be secured if possible."

"We have thought that the shippers should be first consulted in respect to the fundamentals of plans we have in mind. With this in view conferences have been held in Washington with representatives of shipping organizations from various sections of the country and with others concerned. After further conferences, arranged for the immediate future, have been held we will be in position to consider the plan, among others, submitted to us by the chairman of the Association of Railway Executives. We may say, however, that the fundamentals of our plan now under consideration differ materially from those of the plan of the executives' association. Its chairman has advised us that he had postponed the meeting of the association to have been held on Monday, that our committee might consider their plan before submission to their full membership. We notified their chairman that this would be done as early as practicable. Our experts have for some time past been preparing data necessary for the completion of our plan, which is not finished. Further our advisory counsel, also general counsel, are preparing opinions requested in various legal questions involved both in our plan and in that proposed by the executives. The problem is one of vast proportions and upon its proper solution depends not only the fate of the railroads, but the success of the business interests of the country as well."

"The work of the moment is to meet the question of a five year extension of federal control and operation. The official positions formerly held by executives of the railroads, who operated their respective properties, have been taken by federal managers, under regional directors, and in most cases these executives are presidents of the corporations they formerly operated. They are familiar with the effect and consequences of federal control and operation, not only upon their respective railroads, but also upon the facilities and service furnished to shippers and the traveling public. They can supply the data and information in respect to the effect a continuation of such control and operation will have upon the railroads and the shipping interests of the country."

"These presidents compose very largely the Association of Railway Executives and we have therefore written their chairman that the furnishing of this data and information before the senate committee on interstate commerce at the hearings now to begin would seem to be the immediate necessity. The conditions found to exist will likely constitute a basis for the request by the senate committee that the congress pass a joint resolution calling upon the railroad administration to give sufficient time for congress to enact legislation for the proper and the safe return of the railroads under proper governmental regulatory measures, which doubtless would be readily given. There can be little doubt that those who have been operating these properties for the purpose of war, in which they have received every cooperation, will now cooperate in putting them in condition for their proper return when the use for which they were taken has been accomplished."

### Marching on Reval

Bolsheviki Waging Aggressive Campaign in Baltic Province.

London, Jan. 1.—Bolshevik troops continue to advance westward in Estonia and Livonia and are marching on Reval and Riga, according to a Russian wireless report received here. Southeast of Riga the Bolshevik have taken the city of Bomershot on the Dvina river.

### Dividing U-Boats

First Allotment of German Submarines Announced.

London, Jan. 1.—The Mail says that the surrendered German submarines are being divided, France getting fifteen, Italy ten, Japan seven and the United States four. It does not say how the remaining hundred and twenty-seven will be allotted.

## OLD DIPLOMACY AND THE NEW

Clemenceau and Wilson Champions of Different Schools of Thought.

PEACE BY FORCE OF ARMS OR REASON

French Premier Clings to Old Idea of Balance of Power in Opposition to Wilson's League of Nations.

Paris, Dec. 31.—The declaration made by President Wilson in his speech at Manchester Monday against balance of power among the nations is regarded in high American quarters here as a direct rejoinder to the speech of Premier Clemenceau in the chamber of deputies in which he declared his support of the "balance of power" idea and his purpose to make it his guiding thought in the peace negotiations.

Whether it was intended to be so, is not known, but the president's speech, coming within 24 hours after that of the premier has led to a contrast between the two declarations as sharply defining two opposing viewpoints on the subject of the balance of power among the nations.

The textual copy of the premier's speech on Sunday night is now available and gives the following reference on this subject:

"There is an old system which appears condemned today and to which I do not fear to say that I remain faithful at this moment. Countries have organized the defense of their frontiers with the necessary elements and the balance of power."

Great disorder broke out in the chamber at this point and Pierre Prizon, a Socialist deputy, exclaimed: "This is the system which has gone into bankruptcy."

Premier Clemenceau continued, saying:

"This system appears to be condemned by some very high authorities. Nevertheless, I will remark that if such a balance had preceded the war—that if America, England, France and Italy had got together in declaring that whoever attacked one of them must expect to see the three others keep up the common defense."

The premier was interrupted here by applause and disorder in chamber, but later resumed:

"There is in this system of alliances which I do not renounce, I say it most distinctly, my guiding thought at the conference, if your body permits me to go there, and I believe that nothing should separate after the war the four great nations, that the war has united. To this entente I will make all sacrifices."

The statement of the French premier is looked upon as foreign to the statement made a few hours later at Manchester by President Wilson when the president said:

"If the future had nothing for us but a new attempt to keep the world at a right poise by a balance of power the United States would take no interest, because she would join no combination of power which is not a combination of all of us."

The French papers have refrained from discussing the difference of the viewpoints, resulting from M. Clemenceau's speech, except the Socialist organ Humanite which says:

"As to Clemenceau—he repudiates with tranquility the Wilsonian conceptions. Tomorrow it will be necessary to arm again, to construct fortresses and cannon and forge alliances against third powers. To the society of nations there is not even a discreet bow."

### Troop Ship Stranded

Transport Northern Pacific Runs Aground Off New York.

New York, Jan. 1.—The troop ship Northern Pacific, bringing home more than twenty-four hundred wounded officers and men from France, grounded off Fire Island in the thick weather this morning. Rescue vessels soon began removing all except the crew and it was said the troop ship is not in a dangerous position and it is hoped to float her at high tide this afternoon. The sea had become quiet and the moderate breeze was decreasing at noon.

Later in the day the troop-ship was rolling heavily in the sea, which appeared to be getting rougher. The uninjured men are being brought ashore in the breeches buoy, while the wounded and nurses are being moved in tugs and small boats which went to the rescue, a fleet of which is being sent from Hoboken.

At noon no one had been taken off the transport and with four destroyers standing by as the sea was growing rougher. Admiral Usher made plans to take care of the soldiers.

### First Allotment of German Submarines Announced.

London, Jan. 1.—The Mail says that the surrendered German submarines are being divided, France getting fifteen, Italy ten, Japan seven and the United States four. It does not say how the remaining hundred and twenty-seven will be allotted.